

CENTRALLY MANAGED AND DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system thereof for distributing, implementing and
5 managing applications on computer systems, in particular client computer
systems coupled to server computer systems in a network. A client-based shell
program downloads and installs text-based files, such as files that are written
using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax. The XML files define
different components (objects) of an application. The shell program meshes the
10 XML files to create the application. The application can be updated by
downloading and installing a new version of an XML file. The application can
be executed on a client computer system with or without a network connection
to a server computer system. The application can also be executed on the
client computer system while waiting for a response from the server to a
15 preceding request. Thus, the functionality of a "fat" client is provided in a "thin"
client.